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14. ABSTRACT On November 19, 2014, the American Geographical Society hosted Geography 2050, a high-level symposium including top representatives of the Gates and Clinton Foundations, Google, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Open Geospatial Consortium, and many other institutions/companies at the very forefront of current policy and business. More than 250 government leaders, corporation executives, academics, and NGO executives attended. Mr. Robert Cardillo, Deputy Director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, was our keynote speaker.					
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## **Report Title**

Geography 2050, November 19, 2014

### **ABSTRACT**

On November 19, 2014, the American Geographical Society hosted Geography 2050, a high-level symposium including top representatives of the Gates and Clinton Foundations, Google, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Open Geospatial Consortium, and many other institutions/companies at the very forefront of current policy and business. More than 250 government leaders, corporation executives, academics, and NGO executives attended. Mr. Robert Cardillo, Deputy Director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, was our keynote speaker.

## Geography 2050

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Jerome E. Dobson, President of the American Geographical Society formally welcomed the attendees in the opening session and later spoke about Bowman Expeditions.

Mr. Robert Cardillo, Director of NGA, joined us for dinner on November 18 and gave his keynote address on 19, 2014. Mr. John Gould, chair of the AGS Council, and Dobson sat with him at dinner and enjoyed a lengthy conversation. Mr. Cardillo was impressed to learn that Dobson's counterpart at the Russian Geographical Society is Sergei Shoigu, Minister of Defense, and that Dobson had a private meeting with Shoigu in April 2012. Similarly, Mr. Gould's nearest counterpart there is Vladimir Putin, who presided over the meeting that Dobson attended in April 2012. We discussed Bowman Expeditions, including CA Indigena, at length. Mr. Cardillo was supportive enough to insert a complimentary plug for Bowman Expeditions into his keynote address (<https://www.nga.mil/MediaRoom/SpeechesRemarks/Pages/Geography2050Symposium.aspx>).

We discussed a problem unfolding in Central America due to NGA's closing of the regional office headed by Mr. Ron Bowers. Professor Peter Herlihy and I had already met with Mr. Bowers and were fully aware of his concerns. I passed those concerns to Mr. Cardillo, who said, "He said, 'Funny you should mention Guatemala. I just got an email today from the U. S. Ambassador to Guatemala. He's upset that we're closing the office there. He even said it's so important that he's willing to have the State Department pay the cost of keeping it open for another year or two.'" I replied that we are hearing from other Guatemalans and they are upset too.

Several Councilors, including Dobson, had lunch with Mr. Cardillo again after his keynote address.

Ron Bowers, Head of the former NGA Central America Regional Center in Guatemala City, wrote to Professor Herlihy and me on December 2, 2014: "First, let me express our sincere gratitude that American Geographical Society President Jerry Dobson took his time to express the value and importance of NGA's Regional Office in Central America and the Caribbean to NGA Director Robert Cardillo."

